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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**OHIO MAN SENTENCED TO 17 YEARS, SIX MONTHS FOR
PRODUCTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that THOMAS CUNNINGHAM, 53 of Dayton, Ohio, was sentenced to 210 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge David F. Hamilton following his conviction at trial November 20, 2002 for production of child pornography involving a 15 year-old girl from Lawrence County, Indiana. This case was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bedford, Indiana Police Department..

Between December, 2001 and April, 2002, THOMAS CUNNINGHAM used and enticed a 15-year old minor (identified only by the pseudonym "Jane Doe") to engage in sexual acts on at least 7 different occasions. The criminal conduct occurred inside his semi-

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truck and local motels. During one occasion in January, 2002, he used a digital camera to produce three image files of the victim engaging in sexually explicit conduct when she was fifteen years of age. The relationship began during May, 2001 when Cunningham met the victim through a teen chat room while he was posing as a 19 year-old high school student.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Steven D. DeBrotta and Gayle Helart, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Hamilton also imposed 3 years supervised release following CUNNINGHAM's release from imprisonment. CUNNINGHAM was fined in the amount of \$2000.

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